

INTERESTING LEPIDOPTERA RECORDS FROM NORTH-EAST FIFE

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THE FOLLOWING noteworthy Lepidoptera were taken in North-east Fife during 1988 and 1989. They originate from the two neighbouring localities of Morton Lochs National Nature Reserve (OS grid ref: NO4626) and Earlshall Muir SSSI (OS grid refs: NO4822 and NO4922), both v.c. 85. Several of the species have also been taken at the nearby Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve, and also, further north on the east coast, at St Cyrus National Nature Reserve in Kincardineshire.

Coleophora lixella Zeller, 1849. A single imago of this species was taken on 6.viii.1988 flying in afternoon sunshine over dry grassland adjoining the coastal sandhills at Earlshall Muir (NO4922). Its identification was confirmed by examination of the genitalia. This species has a coastal distribution in Scotland, having previously been recorded in Fife from Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve (Pelham-Clinton, 1970) and Pettycur (Bland, 1986), as well as from Kincardineshire (v.c. 91) (Hulme, Palmer and Young, 1978), Berwickshire (v.c. 81) (K.P. Bland, unpublished) and Skye (v.c. 104) (Agassiz, 1984). The single inland locality for this species at Straloch, Perthshire (v.c. 89) (R.P. Knill-Jones and K.P. Bland, unpublished) is rather curious, and may indicate a wider distribution than currently known.

Eulamprotes wilkella (Linnaeus, 1758). Several imagines of this species were taken in a battery-powered light trap among the sand dunes at Earlshall Muir (NO4922) on the nights of 15.vi.1988 and 6.viii.1988, and another was taken similarly in an area of dry grassland at Morton Lochs on the night of 24.vi.1989. The August record would appear to confirm the bivoltinism of this species in Scotland. There are three old (pre-1930) Scottish records, two from East Lothian (v.c. 82) and one from Midlothian (v.c. 83). More recently, it has been recorded in Fife from Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve (Pelham-Clinton, 1970), and in Kincardineshire (v.c. 91) from St Cyrus National Nature Reserve (v.c. 91) (Hulme, Palmer and Young, 1978).

Phalonidia manniana (Fischer von Rosslerstamm, 1839). Several imagines of this species were taken on 7.vi.1989 flying in the afternoon sunshine amongst a variety of wetland plants at Morton Lochs. Their identification was confirmed by examination of the genitalia. A further visit to the same locality (9.i.1990) produced several hibernating larvae in the stems of *Mentha aquatica* L. There appear to be no previous records of this species from Scotland.

Cydia internana (Guenee, 1845). A single worn imago of this species was taken flying in morning sunshine at Earlshall Muir (NO4822) on 27.v.1989. It was flying around bushes of *Ulex europaeus* L. at the edge of an area of birch woodland in the company of large numbers of *C. succedana* (Denis and Schiffermuller, 1775). The identification was confirmed by examination of the genitalia. There are a number of old (pre 1930) Scottish records of this species — Roxburghshire (v.c. 80), Midlothian (v.c. 83), Dumbartonshire (v.c. 99), Wester Ross (v.c. 105) and Easter Ross (v.c. 106), but the only recent Scottish records are from Renfrewshire (v.c. 76) (Christie, 1985), Kincardineshire (v.c. 91) (Young, Palmer and Hulme, 1981) and South Aberdeenshire (v.c. 92) (Palmer and Young, 1984).

Chilo phragmitella (Hübner, 1805). A single imago of this species was taken in a battery-powered light trap operated adjacent to reed beds at Morton Lochs on the night of 4.viii.1989. There are only two previous Scottish records, from the Tay Estuary, near Inchtute, Perthshire (v.c. 88) (Pelham-Clinton, 1959) and from Adderstonelee Moss, Roxburghshire (v.c. 83) (Bland, 1983). The two occurrences referred to by Goater (1986) as Mid-Perthshire and the Tay Estuary both refer to the Inchtute record.

Agriphila geniculea (Haworth, 1811). Single imagines of this species were taken flying in sunshine over the coastal sandhills at Earlshall Muir (NO4922) on 6.viii.1988 and 17.viii.1988. Another was taken in the same locality in a battery-powered light trap on 6.viii.1989. There are two old (pre 1900) Scottish records, one from the Isle of May (v.c. 85) and one from East Lothian (v.c.82). Recent Scottish records are all from the Inner Hebrides, from the islands of Canna, Sanday, Rhum, Coll and Muck (v.c. 103 and 104) (Harper and Young, 1981, Wormell, 1983, Bland, Christie and Wormell, 1987 and Dobson, 1990).

Anerastia lotella (Hübner, 1810-13). A single imago of this species was taken flying at dusk over the sand dunes at Earlshall Muir (NO4922) on 15.vi.1988. There are a number of old (pre 1902) Scottish records, one from Wigtownshire (v.c. 74), several from Ayrshire (v.c. 75) and two from Morayshire (v.c. 95). More recently it has been taken in Fife at Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve (Pelham-Clinton, 1970) and in Kincardineshire (v.c. 91) at St Cyrus National Nature Reserve (Palmer, 1975).

Mesoleuca albicillata (Linnaeus, 1758) (Beautiful Carpet). A single imago of this magnificent species was taken at a battery-powered light trap in an area of alder and willow carr at Morton Lochs on 4.viii.1989. Although widespread further south and west, this appears to be the first record from East Central Scotland.

Noctua orbona (Hufnagel, 1766) (Lunar Yellow Underwing). A single imago of this species was taken at a battery-powered light trap in a marshy area close to the coastal sandhills at Earlshall Muir (NO4922) on

17.viii.1988. Until the middle of the century, this species seems to have been widespread in Scotland, with many published records. However, since 1960, the only occurrences are from Findhorn, Morayshire (v.c. 95) (Harman, 1967 and 1971), Denholm, Roxburghshire (v.c. 80) (Buckham, 1974), Ordie, Aberdeenshire (v.c. 92) (Palmer, 1974) and Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve, Fife (v.c. 85) (Pelham-Clinton, 1970).

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